

Translation

Message of Greeting from Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, for the United Buddy Bears Exhibition in Buenos Aires

Since 2002 the Buddy Bears have been travelling the world as ambassadors for Berlin and a Germany eager for contact with people around the globe. In 2009 the troupe of 140 Buddy Bears – the bear is Berlin's heraldic animal – has finally arrived in the Americas, in the city of Buenos Aires. While all the same shape and size – they stand two meters tall –, each Buddy Bear has its own unmistakable personality evoking the countries of the prominent artists who created them. The whole troupe is a unique work of art symbolizing a world of tolerance, friendship and understanding.

I am delighted we can take this message also to Argentina just as the country prepares to celebrate its bicentenary. For us Germans, too, this is a special moment, a time to look back on two centuries of relations between Germany and the countries of Latin America, two centuries in which we have closely cooperated in a host of mutually beneficial ways. This is also a time to look ahead, however, to a future of ever deepening friendship. It is as a token of this friendship that the Buddy Bears stand in a ring shoulder to shoulder, bringing Argentina and its beautiful capital of Buenos Aires heartfelt greetings from Germany on the occasion of your bicentenary.

(sgd) Frank-Walter Steinmeier
Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs